

I am concerned about a decrease in the variety of voices in the press, radio and TV. Amalgamation of the various media arises from a desire to make reporting the news less expensive in order to increase the profits of those few who form a concentrated ownership.

As in large sectors of American business today these few owners are far removed from the actual process of producing a product (news) and from concern about the quality of the product.

We need many independent news channels run by individuals who care about journalism and understand its importance for the nation.

Its importance is very great. I feel that our democracy is threatened. I see the executive assuming "wartime" i.e. dictatorial powers, while Congress, the body empowered to declare war, stands aside and cedes its powers and responsibilities to the executive. When people are detained and imprisoned contrary to all due process the courts feel obliged to defer to the president's wishes. Whatever happened to checks and balances?

I have thought--at least we still have a free press to tell us about the onimous things which are being done. It is our last hope and safeguard.

I urge that the FCC should retain the Cross Ownership ban. TV stations should not own newspapers. Retain all the FCC media ownership regulations for TV and radio. There should be no cross ownership of TV and radio stations, and the existing caps in TV ownership should be retained.